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## Message from the Secretary General



We've had an extremely busy start to 2016 with votes in the European Parliament on the amended proposals for Regulations on veterinary medicines and medicated feed in February and March respectively. The Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases was also formally adopted in March and this first quarter has seen continued activities on combatting antimicrobial resistance, including the ministerial conference held under the Dutch Presidency which focused on a One Health approach.

The Parliament is now in negotiations with the Member States to finalise the Regulations, so as the year progresses we will continue to promote innovation in prevention and treatment options for animal health as well as the responsible use of our products through awareness-raising and support for ongoing transparency efforts for the veterinary medicines sector.

Read our press statements: [Veterinary Medicines vote](#) – [Medicated Feed vote](#)

## EMA/IFAH-Europe Info day 2016

The 2016 EMA/IFAH-Europe Info-day took place at the European Medicines Agency offices in London on 17-18 March 2016. The two day event saw over 100 industry representatives and regulators meet to discuss the latest developments in scientific review, marketing authorisation procedures and regulatory policy for veterinary medicines.



The programme included updates on the CVMP (Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use) work plan for 2016 as well as activities regarding antimicrobials. There

were also updates on data requirements for vaccines, pharmacovigilance, and the development of novel therapies. The European Commission shared the latest news on the revision of the veterinary legislation and the EMA presented the EU Network Strategy for 2020.

[Visit our website for more information](#)

## IFAH-Europe joins FishMedPlus Coalition



IFAH-Europe is a founding partner of the FishMedPlus Coalition established in December 2015, whose aim is to increase the greater availability of veterinary medicines for aquaculture in European Union and EFTA countries. The availability of veterinary medicines and vaccines, for use in farmed aquatic animals is currently extremely low causing a serious constraint on the prevention and treatment of disease, leading to welfare problems and hampering the growth of European Aquaculture.

The Coalition, chaired by Peter Jones on behalf of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), consists of 10 experts from the aquaculture industry, academia, regulatory authorities, legislators, the animal health industry and the veterinary profession. It is established for a 3-year period and will first perform a gap analysis before investigating the barriers to availability and exploring ways to stimulate availability of further treatments for aquaculture animal diseases.

For more information on the FishMedPlus Coalition contact Nancy De Briyne ([nancy@fve.org](mailto:nancy@fve.org)).

See also the [FishMedPlus fact sheet](#) for more information about the coalition

[Read the full press release](#)

## EFSA-ECDC report on antimicrobial resistance



The EFSA-ECDC report on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) published in February 2016 is the 8th in the series and IFAH-Europe welcomes these reports. In conjunction with other reports like [ESVAC](#),

[ESAC-Net](#), and [JIACRA](#), they contribute to a better understanding and knowledge of the issue of AMR across Europe, and help to see any trends occurring.

IFAH-Europe has noted with interest that responsible use initiatives seem to improve the antibiotic resistance situation in many European countries, which is positive news. It shows the success of initiatives such as [EPRUMA](#) and how awareness campaigns across Europe on the correct and responsible use of antibiotics within a One Health framework can make a difference.

[Read IFAH-Europe's reaction to the report](#)

## New EU Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases formally adopted



The new EU Regulation on Transmissible Animal Diseases, which was previously known as the Animal Health Law, was formally adopted in plenary on 8 March. The Regulation puts in place a single overarching legal framework of standards for animal and public health in the EU and is the result of roughly three years of negotiations between policy-makers.

IFAH-Europe regards this measure as a firm recognition of the important role animal health plays in Europe and of the link with human health. Disease prevention and control through the use of vaccines and the responsible use of all veterinary medicines, not only serve to benefit animal health and welfare alongside sustainable agriculture, but they also benefit public health.

[Read IFAH-Europe press statement](#)

## Eurobarometer on Animal Welfare



The recently-published [Eurobarometer on Consumer Attitudes towards Animal Welfare](#) shows that animal welfare continues to be an important issue for most EU citizens. The report shows that a large majority of EU citizens believe that the welfare of animals should be better protected and that there should be more awareness-raising on the topic.

IFAH-Europe is encouraged by these findings, which highlight the strong concern Europeans share about animals, and calls on the EU to incorporate a strong animal health dimension in its awareness raising efforts.

[Read our press statement](#)

## Animal health on a global level



Our global association has also been busy in this first quarter with awareness-raising on animal health topics via social media. HealthforAnimals has been busy tweeting animal-based factoids in the form of '[Did you know..?](#)' on a weekly basis.

The association also published a report titled '[Innovation in animal health](#)' which discusses the future of the animal health industry and innovation-related issues. One of the topics it addresses is barriers to vaccine development. Press releases were issued connected to all four areas discussed in the report related to innovation. One on vaccination was accompanied by a new series of infographics posted on the [HealthforAnimals website](#) in highlighting the important role they play in animal health. January also saw the launch of a new video on the association's [YouTube channel](#) outlining the essential role of antibiotics in animal health and promotes their responsible use to safeguard efficacy.

## Animal health matters: Will the legislation deliver?



**Register Now! - IFAH-Europe Annual Conference 2016  
Brussels Renaissance Hotel, Belgium, 16 June 2016**

Our annual conference will focus on why animal health matters and if the legislation on veterinary medicines and medicated feed currently undergoing review will pave the way for the animal health industry to deliver solutions for animal health.

[For more info visit our website](#)